

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-10

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DRAFTED BY: S/S- O: W. NEWLIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 130327

EXDIS TOSEC 17

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR VS

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT OF CANADA ON ICCS

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE FROM SAIGON ON JUL 03, RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE

S E C R E T SAIGON 11976

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR VS

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT OF CANADA ON ICCS

1. LAM INFORMED ME THIS EVENING THAT BRITISH HAVE TURNED DOWN HIS SUGGESTION THAT THEY REPLACE CANADA ON ICCS AND THAT HE HAS NO REPLY FROM FRENCH BUT EXPECTS THEM TO DECLINE.

2. LAM SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH PRESIDENT THIEU WHO NOW BELIEVES THAT A TWO PARTY ICCS SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED. THIEU IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT INDONESIAN/ HUNGARIAN ICCS BUT WOULD PREFER POLES TO HUNGARIANS. LAM

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SAID THAT HE AND PRESIDENT THIEU WONDERED WHETHER U. S. LEVERAGE ON POLES WAS SUCH THAT THEY MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO STAY ON. THEY UNDERSTAND POLES MAY BE MOST ANXIOUS TO LEAVE BUT BELIEVE AN APPEAL TO THEM COULD BE MADE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEIR LONG EXPERIENCE IN INDO- CHINA GIVES THEM SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS.

3. I EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT POLES COULD BE PERSUADED TO STAY PARTICULARLY IF ICC IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA WERE REVIVED. I NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT SEEMED TO ME TO WANT TO MAINTAIN A FOUR PARTY ICCS.

4. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SPECULATION IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES HERE IN RECENT WEEKS ON REDUCING THE ICCS TO TWO PARTIES. GAUVIN BELIEVES THIS IS PERFECTLY FEASIBLE PROVIDED THE SAIGON CONTINGENTS OF THE TWO REMAINING PARTIES ARE BEEFED UP TO HANDLE THE ADMINISTRATIVE LOAD. THE POLES WOULD BE THE BEST CHOICE AND, GIVEN THE DIFFICULTY OF FINDING A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT FOR CANADA, AN INDONESIAN/ POLISH OR INDONESIAN/ HUNGARIAN ICCS MIGHT BE A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM.

WHITEHOUSE

UNQUOTE RUSH

SECRET

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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